

**GEOG 24: FROM DECOLONIZATION TO A POSTCOLONIAL WORLD**

M 12:00-1:00 PM

575 McCone Hall

**Course Description**

This course takes on a crucial question of our time, the question of decolonization. While the twentieth century was shaped by movements to end colonialism, decolonization is still very much an ongoing issue in our contemporary world: this is central to the idea of 'postcolonial' We begin with an exploration of the end of colonialism in different parts of the world, and the waves of struggle for decolonization. We turn to scholars of empire and colonialism who help us understand metropolises and colonies as interrelated geographies. Ideas of work, business, taste, pleasure and of political rights flowed across colonial space, in the great imperial cities of London and Paris, as in far flung colonial peripheries. Anticolonial figures in the middle of the twentieth century met and debated strategies to end colonial rule, particularly in Asia and Africa, but they did so during two world wars and the rise and fall (for a time) of fascism in Europe. The global communist movement, with the Soviet Union and Maoist China at the center, spurred movements for decolonization, often with their own geopolitical interests in mind. But decolonization was not just about international relations and geopolitics; it was also an intellectual field linking far-flung thinkers from the global South. We will get a glimpse of decolonization as an intellectual project, and we will read some key thinkers. After the end of European colonies, however, a new intellectual project appeared on the scene to engage the ongoing effects of colonialism, in infrastructures and economies, livelihoods and ways of thinking. This was the birth of what is called postcolonial critique, and we turn to some key thinkers. We also look at film to think a bit more carefully about how postcolonial critique engages representations of colonialism and its ongoing effects in the world, not least in gender relations. Finally, we turn to the insights of postcolonial geography in affirming the possibility of conviviality, or living together, and the ongoing struggles around indigeneity, queerness, and what some thinkers call the 'decolonial.' What we will be doing is linking histories and geographies of decolonization with waves of critique of the world as it is. We end with the challenges of imagining a postcolonial world today.

**Instructor:**

Sharad Chari, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, UC Berkeley.

**Office hours:**

at 543 McCone Hall. Please make use of the online sign-up sheet here.

**CLASS STRUCTURE**

The class will be a seminar discussion.

Each class will begin with a 50min lecture, followed by a 30min discussion seminar. For the seminar, the class will recombine into small discussion groups. Discussions will begin with students from a 'lead group' for the week posing discussion questions oriented to understanding the readings. These discussion sections are part of your grades, and will have to be carefully crafted to help us understand the readings in three important ways. The questions should get us to understand and engage (1) the main arguments in the readings, (2) the evidence provided in support of the arguments, and (3) it should help us evaluate how the evidence fits with the argument, where it does and does not, and how we might think beyond the reading. These are the three elements of critical reading. We aim to do this with every assigned reading.

## **GRADES AND REQUIREMENTS**

As a one-credit seminar, I only require engagement with class material and participants. This means attendance (which I will take), reading or sometimes watching course material (not onerous), openness to ideas and to discussion. I understand that some students are shy about speaking in class, and sometimes we might break out into smaller group discussion to help break the ice, and hopefully the small class size will help you give yourself the space to talk.

## **ABSENCES**

Please provide medical justification for any absences. Two unjustified absences will be excused, after which participation grades fall by 10% per absence.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any test, paper, report or homework submitted under your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not been submitted for credit in another course. All words and ideas written by other people must be properly attributed: fully identified as to source and the extent of your use of their work. Cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on the assignment, paper, quiz, or exam in question and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. See the policy [here](#).

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

Being a student at Berkeley can be highly rewarding experience, and there are different kinds of support to ensure this, whether through tutoring, advice on writing, support for the differently-abled, or services to help deal with pressures, stresses and (we hope this does not happen) tragedies and personal difficulties that interrupt academic life. If you need help determining what kind of support you might need, email your professor or GSI, or come to office hours or speak to them after class. We are here to help you learn and flourish in this environment, so if you are having difficulties, please feel free to reach out.

**Berkeley Student Learning Center** offers peer tutoring, writing support, and other academic resources: [Link](#)

**Disabled Students' Program** provides a wide range of resources to ensure equal access to educational opportunities, including advising, diagnostics, note-taking services, and academic accommodations: [Link](#)

**Tang Center Services** offers short and long-term counseling services to assist students with concerns including academic success, life management, career and life planning, and personal development: [Link](#)

**The PATH to Care Center** provides affirming, empowering, and confidential support for survivors and those who have experienced gendered violence, including: sexual harassment, dating and intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sexual exploitation. Confidential advocates bring a non-judgmental, caring approach to exploring all options, rights, and resources. [Link](#)

### **TECHNOLOGY: No Robots**

No cell phone use at all – not for texting or taking notes: nothing, please. I'd request you turn off your phone for this hour. I prefer no laptop use either, as the temptation to go onto the internet is too great to resist. If you have special needs, please turn off the internet for the full duration of the class, to avoid distraction for yourself and others.

### **COURSE READINGS AND READER**

All required readings will be online and as a course reader available from Krishna Copy at 2001 University Ave, Berkeley.

There are two key books that we will read excerpts from.

Dane Kennedy 2016. *Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press  
Tariq Jazeel 2019 *Postcolonialism*. Abingdon, Oxford

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Note: Sept 2** is a Public Holiday and class starts in week 3.

**Week 3. Sept 9: Introduction.**

#### **Week 4. Sept 16: Waves of Colonization and Decolonization**

Dane Kennedy 2016. *Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-24.

Cooper and Stoler 1997. Excerpt from “Between Metropole and Colony” in *Tensions of Empire*. Berkeley, University of California Press, pp. 1-11.

#### **Week 5. Sept 23: Fascism, World War and Anticolonial Critique**

Dane Kennedy 2016. *Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 25-45.

Aimé Césaire. *Discourse on Colonialism*. New York: Monthly Review Press, pp. 31-46.

#### **Week 6. Sept 30: Communist Internationalism and Decolonization**

John Riddell, Vijay Prashad and Nazeef Mollay eds. 2019 *Liberate the Colonies! Communism and Colonial Freedom*. New Delhi: LeftWord Books. Excerpts.

#### **Week 7. Oct 7: Decolonization as a ‘Third World’ Intellectual Project**

Nico Slate 2012. *Colored Cosmopolitanism: The Shared Struggle for Freedom in the United States and India*. Cambridge, Ma: Harvard University Press. Excerpts.

Frantz Fanon. 1963. *Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press, 311-316.

#### **Week 8. Oct 14: The Exiled Intellectual and The Politics of Representation**

Documentary: [Edward Said: An Arab Professor in a fine English Suit](#)

Edward Said excerpt from *Edward Said Reader*.

Said discusses *Orientalism* at 13.30 in [this documentary](#).

#### **WATCH THESE FILMS BY WEEK 8/9:**

Régis Wargnier dir. 1992. *Indochine*.

Gillo Pontecorvo dir. 1966 *The Battle of Algiers*, Janus Films. (On Berkeley Kanopy)

Ousmane Sembene dir. 1975 [Xala](#) on youtube

#### **Week 9. Oct 21: Gender and Decolonization**

Philippa Levine 2010 “Gendering decolonization” in *Histoire@Politique. Politique, culture, société*. 11, pp. 1-13.

Stephen Morton. 2003. “‘Third World’ Women and Western Feminist Theory = Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

Saba Mahmood and Charles Hirschkind. 2002. "Feminism, the Taliban and the Politics of Counter-insurgency" online [here](#).

**Week 10. Oct 28: Postcoloniality in the embers of decolonization**

Tariq Jazeel 2019 *Postcolonialism*. Abingdon, Oxford, Chapter 1.

**Weeks 11 and 12: No class Nov 4 and Nov 11**

**WATCH THESE FILMS BY WEEK 13:**

Hanif Kureishi *My Beautiful Laundrette* (Amazon Prime)

David Riker. 1998. *La Ciudad* (Journeyman pictures). (On Netflix and Amazon Prime)

Mathieu Kassovitz. 1995. *La Haine*, Janus Films. (On Berkeley Kanopy)

Tariq Jazeel 2019 *Postcolonialism*. Abingdon, Oxford, Chapters 3-5.

How do these films connect experiences of decolonization in specific places with the problem of postcolonialism in any of the senses that Jazeel lays out? Write a short response of 2-3 pages, and come prepared to talk about this next week.

**Week 13. Nov 18: Postcoloniality as Conviviality (or the challenge of living together)**

Tariq Jazeel 2019 *Postcolonialism*. Abingdon, Oxford, Chapters 6 and 7.

**Week 14. Nov 25: Indigeneity, Queerness, Decoloniality**

Paola Bachetta et al. 2019. *Global Raciality: Empire, PostColoniality, DeColoniality*. New York: Routledge. Introduction and Chapter 8.

**Week 15. Dec 2: Conclusion. Decolonizing the Earth**

Tariq Jazeel 2019 *Postcolonialism*. Abingdon, Oxford, Chapter 10. pp. 219-229.

Dane Kennedy 2016. *Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 93-102.